

Application No. 09/476,877
Amendment dated October 11, 2005
Reply to Office Action of June 7, 2005

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

Docket No.: 21736-00010-US

OCT 12 2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listing of the claims in this application.

Listing of the Claims:

Claims 53-86 (canceled)

87. (Previously presented) A computer-implemented system for auctioning a plurality of items, at least some of said items being dissimilar, said system comprising:
- a) an auctioneer's system and at least two user systems, the auctioneer's system communicatively coupled to user systems;
 - b) said user systems including:
 - b1) means for receiving messages from the auctioneer's system and for displaying those messages;
 - b2) means for receiving bid related information from users; and
 - b3) means for transmitting bid information to the auctioneer's system, said bid information including bids (S_i , P_i) each comprising a set identification S_i and a value parameter P_i , where the set identification S_i identifies a set of items that the user proposes to transact and where the value parameter P_i specifies a value proposed by the user for the set of items identified by S_i , at least one of the bids including a set identification S_i identifying at least two different items; and
 - c) said auctioneer's system including:
 - c1) means for generating and transmitting messages to user systems, said messages including a non-final message indicating that an auction will continue and a final message indicating that an auction has terminated;
 - c2) means for receiving bid information from user systems; and

Docket No.: 21736-00010-US

Application No. 09/476,877
Amendment dated October 11, 2005
Reply to Office Action of June 7, 2005

c3) decision means responsive to the bid information received from the user systems for determining whether an auction should continue or terminate, said decision means including:

c31) selecting means which selects bids to maximize a function of the value parameters P_i of the selected bids;

c32) means to initiate the generation of a non-final message to at least one user system in response to a determination to continue an auction; and

c33) means to initiate the generation of a final message to at least one user system in response to a determination to terminate an auction.

88. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 87 wherein the selecting means constrains the selection such that the sets S_i identified by the selected bids are disjoint.

89. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 88 wherein the items comprise television licenses or associated derivative rights.

90. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 88 wherein the auction is conducted in multiple rounds.

91. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 90 wherein the decision means compares the sum of the parameters P_i from the selected bids to a function of the sum of the parameters P_i from the selected bids of an earlier round.

92. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 88 which further includes means for limiting bids from a particular user based on previous bidding activity by said particular user.

93. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 88 which further includes means for limiting the number of bids that may be entered by a particular user.

Docket No.: 21736-00010-US

Application No. 09/476,877
Amendment dated October 11, 2005
Reply to Office Action of June 7, 2005

94. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 88 which further includes means for limiting bids to identifying particular sets of said plurality of items.

95. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 88 which further includes means for limiting a bid from a particular user to a value parameter no less than a minimum value, wherein said minimum value is specific to said particular user and to a particular set identified, and depends on previous bids by the users.

96. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 88 which further includes means for limiting a bid from a particular user to a value parameter no greater than a maximum value, wherein said maximum value is specific to said particular user and to a particular set identified, and depends on previous bids by the users.

97. (Previously presented) A computer-implemented system for auctioning dissimilar items, including multiple instances of each of plural dissimilar items, said system comprising:

- a) an auctioneer's system and at least two user systems, the auctioneer's system communicatively coupled to user systems;
- b) said user systems including:
 - b1) means for receiving messages from the auctioneer's system and for displaying those messages;
 - b2) means for receiving bid related information from users; and
 - b3) means for transmitting bid information to the auctioneer's system, said bid information including bids (S_i, P_i) each comprising a set identification S_i and a value parameter P_i , where the set identification S_i identifies a set of items that the user proposes to transact and where the value parameter P_i specifies a value proposed by the user for the set of items identified by S_i , at least one of the bids including a set identification S_i identifying at least two different items; and
- c) said auctioneer's system including:

Docket No.: 21736-00010-US

Application No. 09/476,877
Amendment dated October 11, 2005
Reply to Office Action of June 7, 2005

c1) means for generating and transmitting messages to user systems, said messages including a non-final message indicating that an auction will continue and a final message indicating that an auction has terminated;

c2) means for receiving bid information from user systems; and

c3) decision means responsive to the bid information received from the user systems for determining whether an auction should continue or terminate, said decision means including:

c31) selecting means which selects bids to maximize a function of the value parameters P_i of the selected bids subject to the constraint that the sets S_i identified by the selected bids are compatible;

c32) means to initiate the generation of a non-final message to at least one user system in response to a determination to continue an auction; and

c33) means to initiate the generation of a final message to at least one user system in response to a determination to terminate an auction.

98. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 97 wherein the items comprise television licenses or associated derivative rights.

99. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 97 wherein the auction is conducted in multiple rounds.

100. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 99 wherein the sets S_i identified by the selected bids in the final round of the auction indicate items that will be assigned to the respective users after the auction.

101. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 99 wherein the decision means compares the sum of the parameters P_i from the selected bids to a function of the sum of the parameters P_i from the selected bids of an earlier round.

Docket No.: 21736-00010-US

Application No. 09/476,877
Amendment dated October 11, 2005
Reply to Office Action of June 7, 2005

102. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 97 which further includes means for limiting bids from a particular user based on previous bidding activity by said particular user.

103. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 97 which further includes means for limiting the number of bids that may be entered by a particular user.

104. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 97 which further includes means for limiting bids to identifying particular sets of said plurality of items.

105. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 97 which further includes means for limiting a bid from a particular user to a value parameter no less than a minimum value, wherein said minimum value is specific to said particular user and to a particular set identified, and depends on previous bids by the users.

106. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 97 which further includes means for limiting a bid from a particular user to a value parameter no greater than a maximum value, wherein said maximum value is specific to said particular user and to a particular set identified, and depends on previous bids by the users.

107. (Previously presented) A computer-implemented method for auctioning a plurality of items among a plurality of users, at least some of said items being dissimilar, the method comprising:

a) receiving bid related information from users at a computer and transmitting bid information for processing by a computer, said bid information including bids (S_i, P_i) each comprising a set identification S_i and a value parameter P_i , where the set identification S_i identifies a set of items that the user proposes to transact and where the value parameter P_i specifies a value proposed by the user for the set of items identified by S_i , at least one of the bids including a set identification S_i identifying at least two different items;

Docket No.: 21736-00010-US

Application No. 09/476,877
Amendment dated October 11, 2005
Reply to Office Action of June 7, 2005

b) determining at a computer, in response to the bid information, whether the auction should continue or terminate, said determining including the selecting of bids to maximize a function of the value parameters P_i of the selected bids;

c) transmitting a message from a computer indicating that the auction will continue to at least one user, in response to a determination to continue the auction; and

d) transmitting a message from a computer indicating that the auction will terminate to at least one user, in response to a determination to terminate the auction.

108. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 107 wherein the determining further includes constraining the selection such that the sets S_i identified by the selected bids are disjoint.

109. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 108 wherein the items comprise television licenses or associated derivative rights.

110. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 108 wherein the auction is conducted in multiple rounds.

111. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 110 wherein the determining further includes comparing the sum of the parameters P_i from the selected bids to a function of the sum of the parameters P_i from the selected bids of an earlier round.

112. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 108 which further comprises limiting bids from a particular user based on previous bidding activity by said particular user.

113. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 108 which further comprises limiting the number of bids that may be entered by a particular user.

Docket No.: 21736-00010-US

Application No. 09/476,877
Amendment dated October 11, 2005
Reply to Office Action of June 7, 2005

114. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 108 which further comprises limiting bids to identifying particular sets of said plurality of items.

115. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 108 which further comprises limiting a bid from a particular user to a value parameter no less than a minimum value, wherein said minimum value is specific to said particular user and to a particular set identified, and depends on previous bids by the users.

116. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 108 which further comprises limiting a bid from a particular user to a value parameter no greater than a maximum value, wherein said maximum value is specific to said particular user and to a particular set identified, and depends on previous bids by the users.

117. (Previously presented) A computer-implemented method for auctioning a plurality of items among a plurality of users, at least some of said items being dissimilar, the method comprising:

a) receiving bid related information from users at a computer and transmitting bid information for processing by a computer, said bid information including bids (S_i, P_i) each comprising a set identification S_i and a value parameter P_i , where the set identification S_i identifies a set of items that the user proposes to transact and where the value parameter P_i specifies a value proposed by the user for the set of items identified by S_i , at least one of the bids including a set identification S_i identifying at least two different items;

b) determining at a computer, in response to the bid information, whether the auction should continue or terminate, said determining including the selecting of bids to maximize a function of the value parameters P_i of the selected bids subject to the constraint that the sets S_i identified by the selected bids are compatible;

c) transmitting a message from a computer indicating that the auction will continue to at least one user, in response to a determination to continue the auction; and

Application No. 09/476,877
Amendment dated October 11, 2005
Reply to Office Action of June 7, 2005

Docket No.: 21736-00010-US

d) transmitting a message from a computer indicating that the auction will terminate to at least one user, in response to a determination to terminate the auction.

118. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 117 wherein the items comprise television licenses or associated derivative rights.

119. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 117 wherein the auction is conducted in multiple rounds.

120. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 119 wherein the sets S_i identified by the selected bids in the final round of the auction indicate items that will be assigned to the respective users after the auction.

121. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 119 wherein the determining further includes comparing the sum of the parameters P_i from the selected bids to a function of the sum of the parameters P_i from the selected bids of an earlier round.

122. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 117 which further comprises limiting bids from a particular user based on previous bidding activity by said particular user.

123. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 117 which further comprises limiting the number of bids that may be entered by a particular user.

124. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 117 which further comprises limiting bids to identifying particular sets of said plurality of items.

125. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 117 which further comprises limiting a bid from a particular user to a value parameter no less than a minimum value, wherein said minimum value is specific to said particular user and to a particular set identified, and depends on previous bids by the users.

Docket No.: 21736-00010-US

Application No. 09/476,877
Amendment dated October 11, 2005
Reply to Office Action of June 7, 2005

126. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 117 which further comprises limiting a bid from a particular user to a value parameter no greater than a maximum value, wherein said maximum value is specific to said particular user and to a particular set identified, and depends on previous bids by the users.

127. (Previously presented) A system for conducting a computer-implemented auction of a plurality of items among a plurality of users, at least some of said items being dissimilar, said system comprising:

- a) means for receiving bid information, said bid information including bids (S_i, P_i) each comprising a set identification S_i and a value parameter P_i , where the set identification S_i identifies a set of items that the user proposes to transact and where the value parameter P_i specifies a value proposed by the user for the set of items identified by S_i , at least one of the bids including a set identification S_i identifying at least two different items;
- b) means for transmitting signals based on the bid information for processing by a computer; and
- c) means at a computer for determining, based on the signals, the items to be assigned to the users, said determining means including selecting means which selects bids to maximize a function of the value parameters P_i of the selected bids.

128. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 127 wherein the selecting means constrains the selection such that the sets S_i identified by the selected bids are disjoint.

129. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 128 wherein the items comprise television licenses or associated derivative rights.

130. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 128 wherein the auction is conducted in multiple rounds.

Docket No.: 21736-00010-US

Application No. 09/476,877
Amendment dated October 11, 2005
Reply to Office Action of June 7, 2005

131. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 130 wherein the determining means compares the sum of the parameters P_i from the selected bids to a function of the sum of the parameters P_i from the selected bids of an earlier round.

132. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 128 which further includes means for limiting bids from a particular user based on previous bidding activity by said particular user.

133. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 128 which further includes means for limiting the number of bids that may be entered by a particular user.

134. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 128 which further includes means for limiting bids to identifying particular sets of said plurality of items.

135. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 128 which further includes means for limiting a bid from a particular user to a value parameter no less than a minimum value, wherein said minimum value is specific to said particular user and to a particular set identified, and depends on previous bids by the users.

136. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 128 which further includes means for limiting a bid from a particular user to a value parameter no greater than a maximum value, wherein said maximum value is specific to said particular user and to a particular set identified, and depends on previous bids by the users.

137. (Previously presented) A system for conducting a computer-implemented auction of dissimilar items, including multiple instances of each of plural dissimilar items, among a plurality of users, said system comprising:

- a) means for receiving bid information, said bid information including bids (S_i, P_i) each comprising a set identification S_i and a value parameter P_i , where the set identification S_i

Docket No.: 21736-00010-US

Application No. 09/476,877
Amendment dated October 11, 2005
Reply to Office Action of June 7, 2005

identifies a set of items that the user proposes to transact and where the value parameter P_i specifies a value proposed by the user for the set of items identified by S_i , at least one of the bids including a set identification S_i identifying at least two different items;

b) means for transmitting signals based on the bid information for processing by a computer; and

c) means at a computer for determining, based on the signals, the items to be assigned to the users, said determining means including selecting means which selects bids to maximize a function of the value parameters P_i of the selected bids subject to the constraint that the sets S_i identified by the selected bids are compatible.

138. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 137 wherein the items comprise television licenses or associated derivative rights.

139. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 137 wherein the auction is conducted in multiple rounds.

140. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 139 wherein the sets S_i identified by the selected bids in the final round of the auction indicate items that will be assigned to the respective users after the auction.

141. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 139 wherein the determining means compares the sum of the parameters P_i from the selected bids to a function of the sum of the parameters P_i from the selected bids of an earlier round.

142. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 137 which further includes means for limiting bids from a particular user based on previous bidding activity by said particular user.

Docket No.: 21736-00010-US

Application No. 09/476,877
Amendment dated October 11, 2005
Reply to Office Action of June 7, 2005

143. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 137 which further includes means for limiting the number of bids that may be entered by a particular user.

144. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 137 which further includes means for limiting bids to identifying particular sets of said plurality of items.

145. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 137 which further includes means for limiting a bid from a particular user to a value parameter no less than a minimum value, wherein said minimum value is specific to said particular user and to a particular set identified, and depends on previous bids by the users.

146. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 137 which further includes means for limiting a bid from a particular user to a value parameter no greater than a maximum value, wherein said maximum value is specific to said particular user and to a particular set identified, and depends on previous bids by the users.

147. (Previously presented) A method for conducting a computer-implemented auction of a plurality of items among a plurality of users, at least some of said items being dissimilar, in a system including an auctioneer's system, the method comprising:

- a) receiving bid information from users, said bid information including bids (S_i, P_i) each comprising a set identification S_i and a value parameter P_i , where the set identification S_i identifies a set of items that the user proposes to transact and where the value parameter P_i specifies a value proposed by the user for the set of items identified by S_i , at least one of the bids including a set identification S_i identifying at least two different items;
- b) transmitting signals based on the bid information to a computer; and
- c) determining at a computer, based on the signals, the items to be assigned to the users, said determining including the selecting of bids to maximize a function of the value parameters P_i of the selected bids.

Application No. 09/476,877
Amendment dated October 11, 2005
Reply to Office Action of June 7, 2005

Docket No.: 21736-00010-US

148. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 147 wherein the determining further includes constraining the selection such that the sets S_i identified by the selected bids are disjoint.

149. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 148 wherein the items comprise television licenses or associated derivative rights.

150. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 148 wherein the auction is conducted in multiple rounds.

151. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 150 wherein the determining further includes comparing the sum of the parameters P_i from the selected bids to a function of the sum of the parameters P_i from the selected bids of an earlier round.

152. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 148 which further comprises limiting bids from a particular user based on previous bidding activity by said particular user.

153. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 148 which further comprises limiting the number of bids that may be entered by a particular user.

154. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 148 which further comprises limiting bids to identifying particular sets of said plurality of items.

155. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 148 which further comprises limiting a bid from a particular user to a value parameter no less than a minimum value, wherein said minimum value is specific to said particular user and to a particular set identified, and depends on previous bids by the users.

156. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 148 which further comprises limiting a bid from a particular user to a value parameter no greater than a maximum value,

Application No. 09/476,877
Amendment dated October 11, 2005
Reply to Office Action of June 7, 2005

Docket No.: 21736-00010-US

wherein said maximum value is specific to said particular user and to a particular set identified, and depends on previous bids by the users.

157. (Previously presented) A method for conducting a computer-implemented auction of dissimilar items, including multiple instances of each of plural dissimilar items, among a plurality of users, the method comprising:

- a) receiving bid information from users, said bid information including bids (S_i, P_i) each comprising a set identification S_i and a value parameter P_i , where the set identification S_i identifies a set of items that the user proposes to transact and where the value parameter P_i specifies a value proposed by the user for the set of items identified by S_i , at least one of the bids including a set identification S_i identifying at least two different items;
- b) transmitting signals based on the bid information to a computer; and
- c) determining at a computer, based on the signals, the items to be assigned to the users, said determining including the selecting of bids to maximize a function of the value parameters P_i of the selected bids subject to the constraint that the sets S_i identified by the selected bids are compatible.

158. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 157 wherein the items comprise television licenses or associated derivative rights.

159. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 157 wherein the auction is conducted in multiple rounds.

160. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 159 wherein the sets S_i identified by the selected bids in the final round of the auction indicate items that will be assigned to the respective users after the auction.

Application No. 09/476,877
Amendment dated October 11, 2005
Reply to Office Action of June 7, 2005

Docket No.: 21736-00010-US

161. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 159 wherein the determining further includes comparing the sum of the parameters P_i from the selected bids to a function of the sum of the parameters P_i from the selected bids of an earlier round.

162. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 157 which further comprises limiting bids from a particular user based on previous bidding activity by said particular user.

163. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 157 which further comprises limiting the number of bids that may be entered by a particular user.

164. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 157 which further comprises limiting bids to identifying particular sets of said plurality of items.

165. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 157 which further comprises limiting a bid from a particular user to a value parameter no less than a minimum value, wherein said minimum value is specific to said particular user and to a particular set identified, and depends on previous bids by the users.

166. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 157 which further comprises limiting a bid from a particular user to a value parameter no greater than a maximum value, wherein said maximum value is specific to said particular user and to a particular set identified, and depends on previous bids by the users.

167. (Previously presented) A computer-implemented system for auctioning a plurality of types of items among a plurality of users, a plurality of each type of item being auctioned, the system comprising:

- a) means for transmitting from a computer to users information including at least a current proposed price for each of the plurality of types of items;
- b) means for receiving bid related information from users at a computer and transmitting bid information for processing by a computer, said bid information including bids

Application No. 09/476,877
Amendment dated October 11, 2005
Reply to Office Action of June 7, 2005

Docket No.: 21736-00010-US

each comprising a set identification S_i where the set identification S_i identifies a set of items that the user proposes to transact at the current proposed prices, at least one of the bids including a set identification S_i identifying a set containing at least two different types of items;

- c) means for selecting bids to maximize a function of values of the selected bids based on the current proposed prices;
- d) means for determining at a computer, in response to the bid information, whether the auction should continue or terminate; and
- e) means for transmitting a message from a computer to users indicating that the auction will continue in response to a determination to continue the auction, said message including an updated current proposed price for at least one of the types of items.

168. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 167 wherein the selecting means constrains the selection such that the sets S_i identified by the selected bids are disjoint.

169. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 168 wherein the items comprise television licenses or associated derivative rights.

170. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 167 wherein the auction is conducted in multiple rounds and the determining means compares the sum of the values of the selected bids with a function of the sum of the values of the selected bids of an earlier round.

171. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 167 wherein the auction is conducted in multiple rounds and the determining means considers whether any new bids were submitted by any user in a round.

172. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 167 wherein the determining means compares the sum of bids to an amount offered.

Application No. 09/476,877
Amendment dated October 11, 2005
Reply to Office Action of June 7, 2005

Docket No.: 21736-00010-US

173. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 167 which further includes means for limiting bids from a particular user based on previous bidding activity by said particular user.

174. (Previously presented) A computer-implemented system for auctioning a plurality of types of items among a plurality of users, a plurality of each type of item being auctioned, the system comprising:

- a) means for transmitting from a computer to users information including at least a current proposed price for each of the plurality of types of items;
- b) means for receiving bid related information from users at a computer and transmitting bid information for processing by a computer, said bid information including bids each comprising a set identification S_i where the set identification S_i identifies a set of items that the user proposes to transact at the current proposed prices, at least one of the bids including a set identification S_i identifying a set containing at least two different types of items;
- c) means for selecting bids to maximize a function of values of the selected bids based on the current proposed prices subject to the constraint that the sets S_i identified by the selected bids are compatible;
- d) means for determining at a computer, in response to the bid information, whether the auction should continue or terminate; and
- e) means for transmitting a message from a computer to users indicating that the auction will continue in response to a determination to continue the auction, said message including an updated current proposed price for at least one of the types of items.

175. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 174 wherein the selecting means constrains the selection such that the sets S_i identified by the selected bids are disjoint.

176. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 175 wherein the items comprise television licenses or associated derivative rights.

Application No. 09/476,877
Amendment dated October 11, 2005
Reply to Office Action of June 7, 2005

Docket No.: 21736-00010-US

177. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 174 wherein the auction is conducted in multiple rounds and the determining means compares the sum of the values of the selected bids with a function of the sum of the values of the selected bids of an earlier round.

178. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 174 wherein the auction is conducted in multiple rounds and the determining means considers whether any new bids were submitted by any user in a round.

179. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 174 wherein the determining means compares the sum of bids to an amount offered.

180. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 174 which further includes means for limiting bids from a particular user based on previous bidding activity by said particular user.

181. (Previously presented) A computer-implemented method for auctioning a plurality of types of items among a plurality of users, a plurality of each type of item being auctioned, the method comprising:

- a) transmitting from a computer to users information including at least a current proposed price for each of the plurality of types of items;
- b) receiving bid related information from users at a computer and transmitting bid information for processing by a computer, said bid information including bids each comprising a set identification S_i where the set identification S_i identifies a set of items that the user proposes to transact at the current proposed prices, at least one of the bids including a set identification S_i identifying a set containing at least two different types of items;
- c) selecting bids to maximize a function of values of the selected bids based on the current proposed prices;
- d) determining at a computer, in response to the bid information, whether the auction should continue or terminate; and

Application No. 09/476,877
Amendment dated October 11, 2005
Reply to Office Action of June 7, 2005

Docket No.: 21736-00010-US

e) transmitting a message from a computer to users indicating that the auction will continue in response to a determination to continue the auction, said message including an updated current proposed price for at least one of the types of items.

182. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 181 wherein the selecting further includes constraining the selection such that the sets S_i identified by the selected bids are disjoint.

183. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 182 wherein the items comprise television licenses or associated derivative rights.

184. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 181 wherein the auction is conducted in multiple rounds and the determining includes comparing the sum of the values of the selected bids with a function of the sum of the values of the selected bids of an earlier round.

185. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 181 wherein the auction is conducted in multiple rounds and the determining includes considering whether any new bids were submitted by any user in a round.

186. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 181 wherein the determining includes comparing the sum of bids with an amount offered.

187. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 181 which further includes limiting bids from a particular user based on previous bidding activity by said particular user.

188. (Previously presented) A computer-implemented method for auctioning a plurality of types of items among a plurality of users, a plurality of each type of item being auctioned, the method comprising:

a) transmitting from a computer to users information including at least a current proposed price for each of the plurality of types of items;

Application No. 09/476,877
Amendment dated October 11, 2005
Reply to Office Action of June 7, 2005

Docket No.: 21736-00010-US

b) receiving bid related information from users at a computer and transmitting bid information for processing by a computer, said bid information including bids each comprising a set identification S_i where the set identification S_i identifies a set of items that the user proposes to transact at the current proposed prices, at least one of the bids including a set identification S_i identifying a set containing at least two different types of items;

c) selecting bids to maximize a function of values of the selected bids based on the current proposed prices subject to the constraint that the sets S_i identified by the selected bids are compatible;

d) determining at a computer, in response to the bid information, whether the auction should continue or terminate; and

e) transmitting a message from a computer to users indicating that the auction will continue in response to a determination to continue the auction, said message including an updated current proposed price for at least one of the types of items.

189. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 188 wherein the selecting further includes constraining the selection such that the sets S_i identified by the selected bids are disjoint.

190. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 189 wherein the items comprise television licenses or associated derivative rights.

191. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 188 wherein the auction is conducted in multiple rounds and the determining includes comparing the sum of the values of the selected bids with a function of the sum of the values of the selected bids of an earlier round.

192. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 188 wherein the auction is conducted in multiple rounds and the determining includes considering whether any new bids were submitted by any user in a round.

Application No. 09/476,877
Amendment dated October 11, 2005
Reply to Office Action of June 7, 2005

Docket No.: 21736-00010-US

193. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 188 wherein the determining includes comparing the sum of bids with an amount offered.

194. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 188 which further includes limiting bids from a particular user based on previous bidding activity by said particular user.